WENDELL POST

50¢ (cheap)

Fall '97

Vol. 21 #3

Citizen of the Year '97 Chief Ed Chase

see article pg 6 !

The Wendell Selectboard honored outstanding community service at Wendell Old Home Day. This year Police Chief and Scout Leader Edward Chase was recognized as Citizen of the Year.

Wendell Center Postmaster Charlie O'Dowd was made an Honorary Citizen of Wendell.

Left to Right, Ann Zak, Ed Chase, Charlie O'Dowd, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
DEC. 9th
7:00 PM SENIOR CENTER

Artist Bob Ellis' Canada Trip

TEMAGAMI SKETCHES

Artists frequently report needing to re-invent themselves, but in July the call to do that came to me from afar: the Canadian Wildflower Society invited me and nineteen other nature artists to participate in a special Art Camp in the Temagami wilderness of Ontario. The Society would provide meals, lodging and airplanes and boats to take us into the bush to make art. The pictures, to be collected in a fine art publication, will be auctioned off to raise money - to save that magnificent old-growth red and white pine forest forever *from chainsaws and mining. Nothing like this invitation has happened to me before, and because of my hunger for wildness and its preservation, I felt humbly and deeply honored by it. With no idea how to get to Temagami (transportation being up to me), I accepted the invitation. Wendell is full of people who love art and nature, and along with more distant friends, my community, including the Wendell Cultural Council, donated with blind generosity sufficient funds to make the nearly 800-mile trip in greater comfort than I had any right to expect. The adventure was a very powerful ex-perience, all too brief, but it filled me up. Now the task is to make the most of the exciting expec-tations it aroused, for I was a delegate as well as one questing after a vision.*

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Well before dawn, glowing anticipation after weeks of waiting. A stout breakfast at 4 AM. Dash to Bradley Airport with a Hartford commuter friend. Roaring traffic, earth- and sky-bound. Check lug-gage, board Air Canada. Change planes at Tor-onto, walk miles between gates, through undigni-fied mishmash at Customs, re-check baggage, bewildered, discombobulated by the garish, sprawl-ing terminal. This country boy is plain allergic to the glitz of commercial culture.

A window seat on a "Dash-8", a small, twin-turbo deHaviland. Among winged whales, the pause before takeoff, then a surge pushes me into the seat and up into clouds *fast*, onto an unending, level sea of white billows that scroll past for the 200 miles to North Bay. I know this aircraft, having flown in them in Africa years ago; they respond immediately when the pilot commands, so I rec-ognize the subtle deceleration and slight decline in flight angle: the plane slides down into the cotton which becomes dark watery fog. Agitated droplets jerk across the window.

The landscape appears, deep green, bright but sunless, shining with hundreds of glassy shards, lakes of all size and shape, connected by wet, silvery threads, the boreal forest of the Canadian Shield. A land half of water, this voyageur's dream: uplands sparsely crowned with sugar maples al-ready coloring up in this dry year, lowlands spiked with spires from dark masses of hemlock, white pine, fir, spruce. We swing low over Lake Nipissing and land, the plane rolling through weak drizzle right up to the small airport where I'm to rendezvous with others for the last leg to Temagami, up the highway that goes to polar bear country on Hudson's Bay. I meet Graham and Evan; we make introductions and head north through rolling topography of much greater relief than appears from the air.

*****

Convivial, friendly confusion as CWS organizers Jim, Zile, Joan, Graham and Peter register and process this varied group of Canada's best nature artists and three rogue Yanks. We turn in sample paintings to exhibit for each other's pleasure, sign forms, read schedules, make new friends, feel connections webbing among us, taste new beers or the beautiful Shiraz red from Australia which will be famous among us by the end of the week. After awhile we head upstairs to the dining room of this resort lodge which would be posh indeed if it were in Wendell. The high energy and quality of con-versation in this room full of like-minded people increase my high, the wine aside, leaving me feeling truly welcomed, among my own kind.

*****

Giant 18-wheel tractor trailers pound north and south, night and day, along Rt. 11 through tiny Temagami

continued pg 12 →

WENDELL POST

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POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

Please send submissions to Wendell Post, PO Box 113, Wendell, MA 01379.

All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed.

If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: 3 3/4" wide, 10 point font size, standard font. Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs.

Please be brief, to share our limited space.

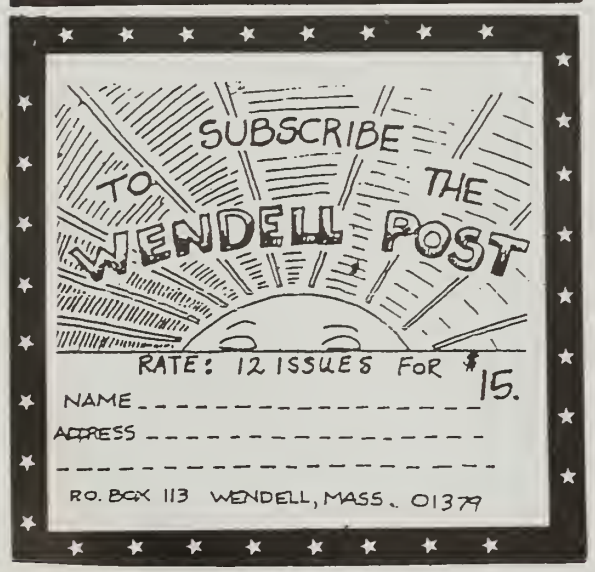
If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.

ADS $7.50 business card!



OBITUARIES

WILLIAM J. FISHER SR.

William J. Fisher Sr., 59, of 238 Lockes Village Road died Monday July 14, 1997 at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield.

He was born in Tupper Lake, N.Y., Feb. 10, 1938, the son of Alfred P. and Aretta (Arnold) Fisher. He attended local schools.

Bill Fisher worked with his father for a short time before entering the logging business on his own. In recent years both his sons worked with him.

He was an Army veteran and served in Germany from 1961 to 1963.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He particularly enjoyed fly fishing and tying his own flies, a joy he shared with his children and grandchildren. Besides his mother of Orange, he leaves his wife of 38 years, the former Evelyn Stockwell; two sons, William J. Jr. of Wendell and Matthew R. of Orange; a daughter, Bernadina M. at home; five brothers, Ervin of Brimfield, Dalton of Orange, David of Greenfield, Leon of North Brookfield and Raymond of Lumberton, N.C.; two sister, Sally Bagdonas of Wendell and Mona Allen of Orange; four grand-children and nieces and nephews.

Burial was in Plainview Cemetery, Leverett.

ELIZABETH E. THOMPSON

Elizabeth Thompson, 85, formerly of Wendell, Mass. died August 18, 1997, at Delmar Gardens Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Chesterfield, Missouri. She was the widow of James W. Thompson.

Betty, as she was known by her friends, was born in Little Compton, R.I., daughter of the late Calvin A. Field and Leila H. (Sylvia) Field-Beasley. She resided in New York before moving to Wendell 27 years ago. She moved to Missouri a few years ago to be near her daughter.

She was a bookkeeper at the Grand Union Supermarket in New York. She also trained bookkeepers for Grand Union for 20 years, retiring in 1965.

She was active in the Golden Agers in Wendell, and was a lifelong member of the Democratic Party.

She is survived by a daughter, Marylyn T. Russell of St. Charles, Missouri; a brother, Russell A. Beasely of Lincoln, R.I.; two grandchildren and a great-grandson. She was the mother of the late James H. Thompson.

She is buried at Hillside Cemetery, Tiverton, R.I.

THE DIEMAND CUTTER HAIRSTYLING SHOP
For the Whole Family
Next to the Egg Farm on the Millers Falls/Wendell Line

(508) 544-3045
(not long distance in Franklin County)

*114 Morman Hollow Rd * Millers Falls, MA 01349*

LORNA WILDER

Lorna J. Wilder, 4 month-old daughter of David Jr. and Pamela (Scott) Wilder of 110 Wendell Depot Road, died Monday September 8, 1997 in Athol Memorial Hospital.

She was born in Greenfield, May 2, 1997.

Besides her parents, she leaves a brother, Trevor A.; her paternal grandparents, Judy and David Wilder Sr. of Wendell; her maternal grandparents, Rhonda and Leonard Scott of Barre; her paternal great-grandmother; Emilee Bagdonas of Wendell; maternal great-grandparents, Marilyn and William Scott of Phoenix, Arizona, Roberta Comeau of Oklahoma and Thea and Earl Lindell of Royalston; and her great-great-grandfather, Milton Richardson of West Brookfield.

Graveside service was held in Center Cemetery with the Rev. Mary Beth Morris of Bethany Lutheran Church in Orange officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Baystate Medical Center, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, 759 Chestnut St.; Springfield 01199.

Letters

To the Wendell Post:

7/19/97

Recently while visiting my parents in Wendell, I took my 2 children for a walk to Fiske Pond. It is a beautiful spot used by many people including myself while growing up in this town. Over the years since I have left I often walk to the pond when visiting. I usually find broken bottles, cans and miscellaneous junk here and there and carry what I can back. This past Spring I cleaned as much junk out of the pond as possible without scuba diving equipment.

This past weekend I was appalled to find piles of trash, bottles, cans, plastic containers, broken glass, disposable razors, etc. everywhere around Fiske Pond. There were at least 15 cars and 1 camper using this area at that time. Now, I know that a few can ruin something for many but I saw many leave without taking one piece of trash with them. Do you really believe the back side of the dam is a dumpster? Or do you expect trash to disappear for some reason?

I DON'T GET IT!? I find it very ironic that a community so environmentally conscious treats this location with such disregard. This is private property--there are no state or municipal employees to come along and clean up after you. This place can only be maintained by the efforts of you and it requires very little effort if many participate. I am not naive enough to think every person using the pond will change but it would be nice if the majority would pick up a can or two, or maybe a broken bottle each time they leave.

Marjorie Lewis-Famiglietti

P.S. I couldn't reach the broken bottles underwater at the dam end of the pond where you dive. Tread lightly. More [illegible] pg 3 & 8!

"Many Tanks"

As many of you must have noticed by now, there are no longer any gas pumps in front of the Wendell Country Store. State and federal regulations made it prohibitively expensive for us to supply gasoline for the community for the past two years. Then removal and disposal fees have been likewise prohibitive thereby causing the tanks to remain in the ground.

Recently however the construction crew working at the Post Office gave us a very appealing estimate for removal if it could be done while they were still on site. We wanted to seize the opportunity but funding was the obstacle. Vic then had a wonderful idea. His thought was to float a loan from the community rather than getting involved with banks, collateral and, we are sure, much wasted time which was of the essence in this case. With the help of Deva Skydancer, calls were made and folks were asked if they would put money up front in return for ten percent credit at the store. Well, much to our delight, it worked like a charm. Thanks to the community spirited people of Wendell, we had the necessary funds in just three days. The job is done and a potential hazard, that could have ultimately had a very negative impact on us all, is no longer a threat.

So we hope you'll pardon the pun when we say many "tanks" to all.

Patti & Vic Scutari

Dear Swift River School community, 10/3/97

Our principal, Christine Lewis has been hard at work and she is happy to say that our school is off to a great start this year! She has noticed how happy and motivated our children have been through out this first month. She is pleased to inform us of some very positive and exciting changes and accomplishments that have already happened:

- Clear detailed Curriculum descriptions for each level have been completed and published.
- A handbook which gives information about the school and its policies has been updated and distributed among families of students.
- The Early Childhood Program has been re-accredited for three more years.
- A new "Full Option Science System" (FOSS) is being implemented into the science curriculum.
- The school is putting our Technology Grant to good use by hiring a consultant to help use our computers more efficiently, to introduce our teachers and students to new programs, and to trouble shoot hardware problems.
- Our library is becoming more and more organized and updated. Our librarian is bringing the use of technology to the library as well.
- A group of our teachers was one of seventeen teams from Franklin, Hampshire and Hamden Counties to be nominated and honored for an "Excellence in Inclusive Education" Award. This reflects our staff's commitment to include and educate all children of all abilities in their classrooms.
- The PTCA has some new members. They have donated funds to buy computer software and .will be working again this year to help parents, teachers and community serve our children.
- Cultural Diversity is back and will be providing a school-wide study of Canada this winter.
- Seven new staff members have joined us as of October 4th. They have each brought many wonderful qualities to our school.

Christine sees the strength of our school community spirit every week with activities such as Community Sing and the D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) program when older children read with younger children... and she hopes to help develop more ways to facilitate communication between the school and the community. I asked her to speak about some of her other interests and goals. Her enthusiasm and commitment to our children and their teachers was evident during our conversation as she rattled off numerous hopes and dreams for The Swift River School.

The following is my brief account of some of Christine Lewis' plans for this year in random order:

- She has an interest in working with the safety committee and our custodial staff to ensure that our school is in "tip-top shape."
- She will continue to work with the school committee and the superintendent to seek funding and to support the school.
- She wants to broaden our capacity for technology.
- She will continue her work with the staff to implement the Math Curriculum and the new FOSS science curriculum.
- She would like to work with the PTCA in their efforts to support our parents, teachers, and community; and she is looking forward to continuing her participation with other groups and committees in their efforts to improve the school.
- She expressed enthusiasm working with the staff and supporting them in their efforts to challenge students of all levels and abilities.
- She plans to continue working with the School Council to update the School Improvement Plan.

Christine Lewis points out that the beginning of each year provides us with a new opportunity to assess where we've been and consider where we would like to go. This is a time full of promise when children and adults can make new friends and establish good working relationships. She invites us to join in making this school the best place possible for our children to learn and grow. She says that your support and involvement are crucial to helping both adults and children thrive. Christine welcomes your suggestions and ideas and urges you to keep in touch and be a part of the process.

I'd like to thank Christine Lewis for her part in getting this year off to a great start. We are lucky to have someone so committed to each of our children. Her positive ideas and her hard work has been appreciated!

Happy new school year to all!

Molly Kaynor

Networking For Mary Jane

As many of you may already know, our friend and neighbor Mary Jane Brol has been diagnosed with a very serious disease which has prevented her from continuing in her role as the sole financial provider and caretaker for herself and her two young children. She has been forced to move out of their home which was not physically accessible to her and has recently entered into a rental agreement with Jonathan and Susan Von Ranson, who graciously opened their home to her when she most needed it. The girls will be staying with Patti and Vic Scutari until it is feasible for them to unite as a family again.

A network of volunteers have come together to help Mary Jane and her family through this difficult time. There are many ways that people in the community can help. Financial aid is needed as well as drivers, cooks, and folks to help with special homework/schoolwork projects.

Pat Scutari is coordinating finances. It's not too late to get your name added to the rent support fund. Ten dollars a month for one year is the suggested donation. Thus far this fund has been in operation for four months and has provided desperately needed support for the family, as well as a satisfying, concrete means of lending a helping hand for the donors. The Wendell Country Store is the collection point for these funds, so please talk to Patti or Joy at the store or call 544-8646 if you are interested in being on "The List".

There are also other ways that people can contribute financially to the family. Mary Jane has a food account at the Wendell Country Store and folks can come by and pay off any amount that they wish towards her bill. Also donations can just be dropped of to Patti or Joy at the store or directly to Mary Jane if you so choose. These donations are used to pay Mary Jane's bills or made available for her personal use, gas money, and the children's expenses. And finally, spare change can always be dropped into the canister on the counter at the store. This container is emptied regularly and given to Mary Jane as needed.

Now for the new endeavors, we are collecting the names of people who would like to; drive the kids to activities or appointments, drive Mary Jane to therapies, Drs., etc..., cook meals, and help move and store the family's furniture and possessions. You can call, Chris Ewell at 544-8126 to help with kid transportation/school help, Eileen Sauvageau at 544-3223 to volunteer to cook, or Joy Gorzocoski at 544-8345 to lend a hand driving Mary Jane to and from appointments and or help with moving.

Mary Jane has asked us to express her deepest gratitude to all those who have been so supportive; spiritually, physically, as well as financially. Her spirits are high and positive and she adds that she would be very appreciative if any one would be willing to lend her any funny, upbeat and or inspiring videos from their personal collection.

We, the coordinators of the Networking committee would like to thank you all for your help, in the past, present, and the future. We look forward to working with you as we get this "Networking for Mary Jane" up and running.

Chris Ewell
Joy Gorzocoski
Eileen Sauvageau
Pat Scutari

Jerry Eide
Hill Town Restoration
(508) 544-7864
Specializing in Preservation Techniques

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Wendell Selectboard Meeting June 10, 1997
Minutes Members present were Ted Lewis, Anne Zak, and Margo Culley. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator and Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Discussion of Annual Town Meeting vote on Town Hall septic tank and Public Works Department. 5,000 gallon tight tank on Town Common is suggested by Board of Health. MA. GL Chapter 41.69D was referred to for Public Works.

Public Hearing for Town Hall septic will be held on June 24, 1997 at 8:00.

Board signed letter to David Bardsley Jr.

Board signed amendment to Community Action Statement.

Franklin County Selectmen's Association Meeting will be June 19, 1997 in Whately.

Letter received from Stanley Gawle of nuclear waste issues.

Block Grant Public Hearing will be held on June 24, 1997.

Franklin County Home Care Annual Picnic will be July 17, 1997 in Gill.

Public Hearing held at 7:30 for D& B Autobody Class II license. License granted with restrictions that a fence be placed across the front of Mormon Hollow Auto and there be no sales lot.

Discussion of unregistered vehicles.

Regina Curtis discussed Historic Landscape Preservation Grant that would supply grant monies for Town Common revitalization.

Discussion with Bob Leet, Board of Health on Town Hall septic issues.

Discussion of Citizen of the Year.
Meeting adjourned at 9:45.
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting June 17, 1997
Minutes Members present were Ted Lewis, Anne Zak, and Margo Culley. Also present was Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Eric Wight, Building Inspector discussed his resignation with the Board.

Resignation received from Allen Baldwin, Veteran's Agent.

Anne Zak reviewed previous Route 2 Task Force Meeting's plans to meet and follow up throughout rehabilitation process.

Anne Zak will attend Rte. 2 Task Force Meeting on June 25, 1997 at Phillipston Town Hall.

Bill Allen, Franklin County Planning and Engineering discussed discontinuances of county roads between Depot and Farley Road , Horse Hill Road, and Rockwood Hill Road sections between Jennison and Cooleyville Roads.

Board signed RAN papers for Carolyn Manley, Town Treasurer.

Board signed annual appointments.

Appointments are needed for one Planning Board and two Finance Committee positions.

Board signed agreement with Roy Bishop for for property assessment inspections.

Board signed D& B Autobody License.

Community Septic Grant can be brought up for revote at Special Town Meeting.

Al Robichaud inquired on Town Common mowing.
Meeting adjourned at 8:45
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting June 24, 1997
Minutes Members present were Ted Lewis, Margo Culley, and Anne Zak. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator and Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Board signed various Block Grant project completions and payment releases for Franklin County Regional Housing Authority.

Discussion of Macleay's estimate for Town Hall septic work.

Bids reviewed for basketball court at Town Offices park.

Discussion of advertising and application deadline for Building Inspector.

Community Block Grant Public Hearing held at 7:30. Bruce Hunter , Franklin County Regional Housing Authority discussed options for Wickett Pond and Plain Rd. roadwork allotment . Housing rehabilitation is available for 5 residences. Walter Merkle, Franklin County Community Development Corporation discussed services available to Wendell from the CDC utilizing the $10,000 communtity development portion.

Town Hall Septic System Public Hearing scheduled for 8:30 was cancelled. Board voted to initiate the process.

Board will meet on July 22,1997 with the Road Commissioners and Board of Health for Public Works discussion.

Discussion of possible merger with surrounding towns in sharing of a new Veteran's Agent.

Discussion of porta potty rental for Old Home Days with Anne Diemand.

Town Common Revitilization Public Hearing will be Wednesday July 9, 1997 at 7:00 at the Town Hall .

All Board Meeting will be held in near future.

Discussion of Comprehensive Permit appeal.

Discussion of Conservation Committee concerns with Depot Road culvert.
Meeting adjourned at 10:00
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting July 8, 1997
Members present were Ted Lewis, Anne Zak, and Margo Culley. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator and Wanita Sears. Warrant was signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Discussion of Building Inspector interviews.

Conservation Commission position open due to Bill Lafley's request to not be reappointed.

Board reviewed Swift River School Budget Report.

Board signed Block Grant application.

Wendell Depot Bridge will close for repair on July 14,1997.

New Salem -Wendell School Committee Meeting will be July 10, 1997 at 7:30 at Swift River School.

Town Common Public Hearing for Massachusetts Historical Commission Grant will be July 9, 1997 at 7:00.

Received notification of Chapter 90 second half payment of $161,284.

Invitation received for reception for Allan Baldwin, Veteran's Agent on July 20,1997.

Board appointed Ted Lewis as representative to Veteran's District Meetings.

Discussion of Town Hall Deeds.

Board interviewed Phil Delorey for Building Inspector.

Discussion of Town Hall painting and kitchen.

Discussion of Town Custodian and hourly town standard.

Discussion of PILOT , budget surplus regional school transportation ,and lottery monies increases in state budget.

Follow up on DEM tree cutting plan at State Forest.
Meeting recessed at 9:30 until 10:00 July 9,1997 for Conservation Commission and Building Inspector interviews.
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting July 22,1997
Minutes Members present were Ted Lewis, Anne Zak, and Margo Culley. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Phil Delorey was appointed Building Inspector.

Martina Carroll was appointed Franklin County Solid Waste District Representative.

Ted Lewis signed application for payment to housing.

Melinda Godfrey was interviewed and appointed to the Conservation Commission.

Pole Hearing was held and signed for Depot Road . Road Commission requested of George Boyle, NYNEX that pole be a stub pole and 4 to 6 feet from pavement.

Road Commissioners requested that Mr. Boyle speak to NYNEX workers of unsafe practices while working.

Road Commissioners, Board of Health, and Board discussed Department of Public Works. Better communications betweenWRATS and Danny Bacigalupo and tight tank for Town Hall.

All Board Meeting will be held to introduce chapter and verse for Department of Public Works.

Crystal Conway attended showing interest in Finance Committee position. Board advised her to contact Lee Trousdale, FinCom Chair.

Shawn Conway will contact Planning Board on his interest of becoming a member.

Board invited to barbeque at Diemand Farm on July 31, 1997 with guest Shannon O'Brien , State Representative.

Byron Ricketts and his mother will donate a bicycle rack for the Town Offices Playground.

Board will send a thank you letter to Stanley Rosenberg and Steve Kulik for their work on the State budget.

Discussion of Cemetary Commission meeting for new cemetary.

Discussion of Town Hall interior paint and trim.

Discussion of $26,000 matching funds needed for $50,000 Town Common Revitilization Grant.

Discuusion of bids for basketball court at Town Offices Playground with Anne Diemand.

Town Common Revitilization Meeting will be July 31, 1997.
Meeting adjourned at 9:45
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting August 5, 1997
Minutes Members present were Ted Lewis, Anne Zak, and Margo Culley. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, Joe Coll, Athol Daily News, and Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspodence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Martina Carroll, Franklin County Solid Waste District Representative discussed districts needs and received Board's answers to a questionnaire that will help in this evaluation.

Murdeen Wallace and Jacob Liebert, Valik representatives presented their deferred compensation retirement plan which the Board agreed to offer to Town employees.

Ted Lewis signed letter of recommendation for Dufresne-Henry.

Letter received from citizen requesting the Board's aid in Wendell being in the 413 area code.

Letter received from George Boyle, NYNEX in follow up to worker safety issues.

Peter Abair will be Director of the Governor's Western Mass. Office on Dwight Street in Springfield.

Board voted no interest in Chapter 61 buyout option from Frank Judice.

Ted Lewis will attend Veteran's District Meeting on August 14, 1997 at the Central District Office, 190 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls.

Board signed letter for DEM grant.

Board signed to commit matching funds from the general fund in a letter of support for the Town Common Revitilization Grant.

Board discussed Town Office repair projections and placed the work out to bid in the newspaper.

Soil evaluation for tight tanks has passed. State and DEP approval will be written for now.

Letter will be sent to the State requesting road repair be done in the State Forest from June 13, 1996 flooding.

Board will meet with Cemetary Commission and Road Commissioners on August 19,1997.

Dog Hearing will be held on August 19, 1997 for Michael Wing's dogs.

Arlene Berkowicz-Vova has resigned as Assistant Superintendent for Union 28. Cynthia Capparazzo will replace her. Mary Goldstein, Financial Union 28 has resigned also.
Meeting recessed at 9:00 to reconvene at 10:00, August 7, 1997 for the Jennison Road Culvert bid opening.
Meeting will reconvene again at 9:00, August 8, 1997 to meet with Town Auditor and Town Counsel.
Respectfully Submitted,

Wendell Selectboard Meeting August 8, 1997
Minutes Members present were Ted Lewis, Anne Zak, and Margo Culley. Also present was Tom Scanlon, Town Auditor, John Gates, Town Counsel, Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator,Dan Keller, Finance Committee, and Wanita Sears. Meeting reconvened at 9:00.

Tom Scanlon, Town Auditor discussed concerns of recent audit of the Tax Collector's Office and advised all present on options and course of action to correct concerns.

John Gates, Town Counsel advised Board on legal aspects under State administered Town Law.

Board voted to award contractor's prequalification to Davenport Trucking for Jennison Road Culvert contingent on State certifications.
Meeting adjourned at 10:00
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting August 19, 1997
Members present were Ted Lewis, Anne Zak, and Margo Culley. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, Sarah Golding, Athol Daily News, and Wanita Sears.Warrant was signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00

Resignation received from Ted Gagnon, Assessors.

Tresa Hebert spoke to Board of her role in coordinating officer coverage for NYNEX and Mass Electric Town work along with submission of payroll to Town Treasurer. Board will work with her and Carolyn Manley, Town Treasurer to determine how to expedite the payroll process

指圧
SHIATSU
Japanese Massage
SHUNJI MORIMOTO
〒508) 544-2375

Select board cont.

and determine Mrs.Hebert's wages.

Lisa Hoag inquired on status of tight tank for Town Hall in anticipation of Full Moon Coffeehouse season beginning. Board advised her that Town is awaiting State approval.

Bruce Hunter, Franklin County Regional Housing Authority discussed septic system repairs monies that will revert back to Wendell on repayment as housing improvement monies do. Board signed documents for FCRHA.

Danny Bacigalupo, Cemetary Commissioner told Board new cemetary work will begin in September. Jack Faire has volunteered to do plot layout. Volunteers will be needed for October weekends for earth leveling. Board voted to exempt David Wilder, Road Commissioner so he may receive compensation for excavation.Cemetary Public Hearing will be held in October.

Franklin County Selectman's Meeting will be held August 21, 1997 at Thomas Memorial Golf Course.

Request for Certificate of Compliance received from Conservation Commission for Morse Village Road project.

Leo Parent, Veteran's Central Office has been voted Wendell Veteran's Agent.

Notice received that Sarah de Roode would like a Selectboard representative to attend the Emergency Preparedness Meeting September 24,1997 at the Hotel Northampton with her.

Anne Zak presented presented final State report on Rte. 2 upgrades.

Ms. Zak discussed Community Policing Committee's efforts in a letter to Swift River School that will advise drivers by the school of their speed.

Dog Hearing held for Michael Wing at 8:15. Weekend of complaint housesitter there. Mr. and Mrs. Wing will work with the puppy to control barking while outside and reduce outside time.

Board discussed police detail for utility work with Carolyn Manley, Town Treasurer.Prepayment from them will be asked.

Ted Lewis will contact Jay Blackbird on Town Offices ceiling and light work.

Jennison Road contract has been awarded to Gomes Construction.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 14, 1997 Members present were Ted Lewis, Anne Zak, and Margo Culley. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, Sarah Golding, Athol Daily News, and Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00

Ted Lewis spoke of conference he attended with Highway Department and Railroad. Agreement has been made for mutual repair of the Farley Road railroad crossing.

Len Lubinsky, School Superintendant will meet with the Wendell and New Salem Selectboards, Finance Committee representatives, New Salem Town Accountant, and School Committee representatives on November 3,1997 at 8:00 in New Salem. Meeting will determine any reimbursemnts to either Town from Swift River School Construction.

Anne Zak reported the Town Hall kitchen is being painted along with interior walls. Discussion of floors, curtains and linoleum. Mike Anderson will replace heating system.

Windows have been ordered for Town Offices.

Ms. Zak reported that recent Community Policing Committee Meetings have included State as well as local police involvement. A Police Softball Game was held in New Salem recently.

Tax Classification Hearing will be held on October 28, 1997 at 7:30.

Anne Zak will attend a surprise dedication of the Carroll A. Holmes Recreation Area at Lake Wyola State Park on October 18, 1997 at 11:00.

Linda Hickman was appointed to Cultural Council at request of Phyllis Lawrence, Cultural Council Chair. One seat remains open on the Cultural Council.

Franklin County Solid Waste District Meeting will be October 16, 1997 at 7:00.

Ted Lewis will attend a meeting at Franklin County Technical School on October 21, 1997 to elect a Wendell representative for negotiations with the Franklin County Teacher's Association.

Invitation received for West River Health Center Open House on October 17,1997 from 2-6 at 450 West River Street, Orange.

Regina Curtis will call legislators at MMA's request to ask their support of removal of a section in the electric deregulation bill that will require 30B procurement rules when securing energy savings for municipal buildings.

Town Hall Septic Application is in to the DEP awaiting approval.

Gomes Construction is expecting precast culvert to arrive for Jennison Road project to begin at month's end.

Request for revised culvert design for Wendell Depot Road is in to Don Adams, Engineer. Mr. Adams is working with the Board of Health on the Landfill Cap Comprehensive Site Assessment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

September 30, 1997
The Board met at 7:00 p.m. to sign the warrant.

Gail Krutka met with the Board to request permission to use the Town Hall for the annual children's Halloween party on 10/31 from 3:30 - 5:00 pm. The Board granted permission, noting that the bathroom at the Town Office would be available for use that day, as the Town Hall bathrooms are still out of commission, and with the reminder that nothing was to be attached to the newly painted walls at the Town Hall.

Regina Curtis extended an invitation from the New Salem Selectboard to meet with them on October 6th at 6:30 in New Salem to discuss the outcome of the Swift River School audit. Anne Zak and Margo Culley will attend. Issues to be specifically addressed include:

1) Balances outstanding in and/or from the Construction Account and its reimbursement distribution

2) The School Committee's and the Superintendent's responsibility to the towns.

3) Accountability at Union 28 regarding the School Treasurer and Accountant.

The Franklin Cty Solid Waste Management District notified the Town that the Household Hazardous Waste Day registration forms are available. They will be placed at the Town Office and WRATS.

There will be a Route 2 Task Force meeting on 10/30/97 @ 7:00 @ Erving Town Hall. Anne Zak will attend.

The Selectboard reviewed the Mahar final budget for FY'98. The assessment for Wendell is down approx. $4,000 from the amount planned for at annual town meeting.

The Selectboard discussed a proposal floated by the Franklin Cty Solid Waste Management District to pursue the idea of a regional "Bulky Waste" pickup day. The Board gave cautious approval of the idea, with the caveat that several areas of concern for the municipalities would require careful attention as the plan developed.

Regina Curtis gave an update on the Town Hall septic system. The application for a tight tank has been submitted to the DEP, a Notice of Intent has been filed with the ConCom, and the BOH and Petersham Sanitary have both provided letters necessary for DEP approval. As soon as the NOI public hearing is held, the full application will be submitted to DEP. The Board reviewed the blueprint for the tank and questioned the size of the tank in the design - Regina will follow up with the engineer to ensure that a tank appropriate for vehicle traffic passing over will be installed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting September 16, 1997 Minutes Members present were Ted Lewis, Anne Zak, and Margo Culley. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, Sarah Golding, Athol Daily News, and Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

DOR Cherry Sheets show a $225 increase in Veteran's account.

Memo received from Carolyn Manley, Town Treasurer regarding stipend for Tresa Hebert for preparing police detail reports.

Ted Lewis signed MRF contract extension with DEP.

List of meetings received from the MDC for Massachusetts Watershed Initiative Draft Plan .

Ted Lewis will attend Lake Grove Advisory Board Meeting on September 18,1997 at 7:00.

Invitation received for Lake Grove Convocation September 26,1997 at 11:30.

Bid opening at 7:30 for Town Office repairs. Four bids received. Bowes And Dodge $11,648.27, Morrell Construction $10,700, ABIDE Corp. $8,502, and Accutech Co. $7,709. Repairs awarded to Accutech upon confirmation of window size specifications.

Jim Lake has resigned as Supervisor of Shelburne Control. Charles Garrity replaces him

Shawn Conway was appointed Planning Board Member with their vote.

Dale Kowacki, New Salem Town Accountant presented to the Board the Swift River School Construction Audit. Discussion followed with Mr Kowacki, Board members, and Lee Trousdale, Finance Committee Chair. The Board commended Mr. Kowacki for his efforts. Follow up with New Salem Selectboard is anticipated.

State approval for Town Hall septic not received yet.

Board approved Linda Hickman's request for use of Town Common for Harvest Festival October 4, 1997.

Board will meet soon with Joe Coll to discuss Franklin County Council of Governments regional issues.

Board went to Town Hall to inspect a test site of interior painting.

Meeting adjouned at 9:00.
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Wendell Selectboard Meeting September 2,1997 Members present were Ted Lewis, Anne Zak, and Margo Culley. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, Sarah Golding, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears. Warant was signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Phil Delorey, Building Inspector discussed some property concerns with Board. Mr. Delorey also discussed as School Committee member the State requirements for air quality, work that is needed at Swift River School in library, and 6th grade teacher resignation.

Ted Lewis signed Franklin County Solid Waste District MOU for Household Hazardous Waste Day October 25, 1997.

Route 2 Task Force Meeting will be held September 4, 1997 at the Erving Town Hall.

Estimate for Town Hall painting received from Doug Turner.

Swift River School Committee Meeting will be Septeber 4, 1997 at Swift River School.

Board voted for a trial period of biweekly meetings to coincide with warrants. Board will review at October 28, 1997 meeting.

Doug Turner awarded Town all interior painting.

Board signed tax refund form for Tax Collector.

Ted Lewis signed Town membership for BJ's Wholesale.

1996 School Statistics Report received.

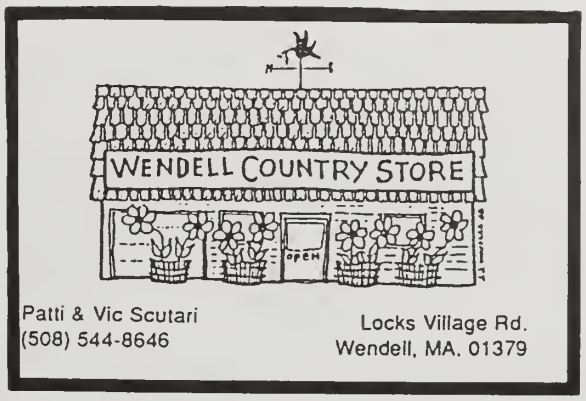
Received State Auditor's Report on Education Reform.

State contract for tight tank not received.

Anne Zak will serve on School Council for Mahar Regional.

Administrative fee discussed for Tresa Hebert.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk



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1997 Citizen of the Year : Ed Chase

An Interview with Ed Chase: Myron Becker

M. I watched at old home day as Ann Zak handed you the Citizen of the Year award, how did that feel?

E. To say I was surprised is an understatement. I was really surprised and impressed. I didn't have clue one that it was going to happen. Even my wife Mandy, who knew about it, kept it a big secret which surprised me.

M. Seeing Ann hand you that award reminded me that your relationship with the Selectboard has not always been perfectly smooth. How are things these days?

E. I think it's pretty good. We work together. We don't always see eye to eye on everything, but then again if everybody always saw eye to eye on everything then something would be wrong.

M. It wouldn't be Wendell.

E. Yeah, It wouldn't be Wendell. We have our disagreements but business goes on.

M. How's the Community Policing Committee going?

E. The Community Policing Steering Committee; I think it is probably one of the better things we've done over the years. What it does is allow us to work from all different perspectives. People are coming to realize that we're approachable. Just because you come and tell us something or come to us with a problem, it doesn't mean that its going to show up in the newspaper. And from our side we get to see a different perspective of how people see us and how they interact with us. I think it has benefited everybody.

M. Its an interesting thing in Wendell where everything seems to be run by committee and where there seems to be an inherent adversity to the concept of policing in certain segments of the population. Do you think Wendell is significantly different from other towns in this regard?

E. I think it has it's own distinct flavor if you will, but the problems people have here are similar to the problems people have in other towns. I think if you look at it from the fact that we're not a full time police dept. but more of an emergency response team and peace keepers. Ann (Zak) always says that she looks at us as being "peace officers", not police officers and I'd have to kind of agree with her on that. Anything that is a long term, lengthily investigation we turn over to the State Police when at all possible. Neighbors disputes, domestic problems, drunk driving we try to handle on our own with as much compassion, if you will, for both parties. And through the committee, I think people realize that we don't have anybody that's out to get anybody and nobody's on a power trip. The reaction and response that we've had from people has been positive. We've been doing it for about three years, and if someone was to ask "what have you actually done?" , well we haven't done anything really tangible that you can see except foster better relations with people who fear the police or don't want to interact with the police. I think people think we're more approachable now.

M. Because of that (The Committee) vehicle?

E. Yes.

M. Do you think that the perception of the police dept. in Wendell in general on the part of the populace has changed?

E. I do, I do. I don't think that they categorize us with "police", I think they now realize that we live in the community, we interact with the community and if they have a problem, we're there to try to help them out. Whether we can help them out directly or just as pointing out various resources, this is the way we try to go.

M. Do you plan to stay the Chief of Police the rest of your life?

E. Ha (hardy laugh) I don't know, I haven't considered giving it up yet. That day will come sometime, I'm sure.

M. What personal needs does it fulfill for you? Obviously you're not in it for the money.

E. Nobody makes any money on the police dept. in Wendell. I just have my salary put towards my taxes. The only time I collect any money is to pay out of pocket expenses. Nobody makes any money at it. It pays $7.55 an hour and to have to get up at 1 or 2 in the morning to go out to deal with something, it has to be a labor of love. There's no big prestige in it, there's no benefits... I don't know why.

M. A labor of love of what?

E. (Pause to think) Being there when people need some place to turn to.

M. You and I have known each other for a long time. Has there been a time when you've said to yourself "what the hell am I doing this for?"?

E. Oh yeah. Nights when you get home at 11 you've just gotten into bed and the phone rings and you've got an accident that's going to take you 3 or 4 hours to clear up, or you go out on a "domestic" and the people involved are friends or acquaintances of yours. These are tough situations to deal with. Your neighbor gets or deserves a speeding ticket and how do you deal with that? Because when you cost people money their perceptions of the police department or you as a neighbor, change. Nobody wants to make enemies needlessly. So we bend over backwards to get people to comply with things like the speed limits and domestic abuse. But there comes a point where you have to step out of the role of being a neighbor and be the police officer.

M. Seems like being in police work for a long time you would have "been there, seen that". You don't feel that you get hardened at all?

E. Nah, I think you just have to have a good sense of humor... and I think that probably a lot of that is due to that we're part time and we're not exposed to it every day. You get to interact with normal good people as well as not so normal, not so good people. I don't feel that I've gotten hardened to it. Sometimes we may not be as sympathetic as people would like us to be but then again we have to play within the rules.

M. The roles of a peace keeper and a law enforcer can conflict with each other....

E. Absolutely, absolutely. Now there are laws on the books, and this domestic violence comes to mind, where we are mandated by statue as to what our response has to be. If we go there and see signs of abuse whether on the man, woman or a child we're mandated to arrest the abuser. It's cut and dry. So sometimes that can be a tough situation to deal with. In a small town people have arguments and problems, and now we're being told "you will deal with it like this". Which makes it easier in some respects and harder in certain ways. Because you take an abuser out of the house to a relatives or whatever, maybe it was just angry words or alcohol talking. How we would or could have handled it in years past is now mandated by law. It has taken a lot of discretion away from us.

What we run up against when it's mandated is in the days or weeks to follow, the abused party saying "I just wanted you there, temporarily to have this stopped, I didn't want anyone arrested or to go to court..." I have to say "I'm sorry, but that's the way it has to be". It probably is to the better.

M. What about when it is not an abuse situation, a neighborhood dispute, obviously we've had a few of those in town, dogs barking etc., you get called in to those situations, when you can and have to use judgment, you can choose to be a peace keeper or law enforcer or both and have to weigh that balance. What I'm getting at is, how do you use judgment?

E. I think the judgment comes from instinctive feeling of how the situation is going to progress after having dealt with similar situations over a period of time. If you have a situation where you know that people are just blowing off steam and it's going to be all forgotten tomorrow, then you just deal with it on today's basis and not prolong it by going through the judicial system but that's a gray area there. That's where it its important that you know the people, they know you, often times people just want to have a neighborhood dispute, they just want it on the record that they're the ones that complained.

M. It seems to me that when you get into gray areas what fills in the color in those gray areas, has got to be your own internal value system, you have to go into this job is a very concrete idea of what you personally believe is right and wrong.

E. Yup. Well this is the country. We get a lot of "my neighbor's dogs bark and the roosters crow, we're up from Cambridge and we're not used to this." Well, this is the country and people have dogs that bark to alert them when people come onto the property. I'm sorry that they bark. We've suggested to the neighbors that they buy anti bark collars for their dogs and sometimes it works out. But people think if they have a barking dog problem, I'll call the police and that's where the problem starts. That's not an emergency response situation. If you have persistent barking dogs we refer you to the Selectboard. If you want to take it to court, we'll suggest what court is appropriate and give you the paperwork. If you really want to pursue it, this is how you do it. We're not going to do the work for you, we just don't have the time. A lot of people don't want to deal with some problems and think they can just call the police and we'll take care of it. Well we'll tell you what the options are but if you really have a problem (that's not of an emergency or criminal nature), and you want to invest some time in dealing with it, we'll tell you what your options are. We all have full time jobs and we cant be running down to court every day on something that is not an emergency and you can deal with it on your own.

M. Sort of like going to the emergency room with the sniffles

E. We're not the 100% everyday problem solvers, if you have a legitimate problem, we'll deal with it. If it's something that's a civil complaint between you and another party, we'll tell you what resources and options are available and you invest your time to do it.

M. What would you tell someone that was or thinking of moving into Wendell from an urban environment?

E. Tough question. We are in the country: Driving conditions are different, you're more isolated, people have dogs, dogs bark, rabbits and raccoons cry at night. People hunt. You can't call us up because someone is shooting somewhere near your property and expect us to come down and arrest someone. It is perfectly legal here to hunt in season as long as the proper distances are kept from dwellings and shooting zone or posted signs. We get these calls "I hear shots" somewhere near my property." "Well how far do you think they are?" "About a quarter mile away".

M. I share your concerns with the difficulty of people moving into rural environments like Wendell and having an idealistic idea of country living. Then when the chain saw starts early Saturday morning or you can hear the

Cont pg 7

Citizen
Cont. from pg. 6

shots when deer season opens and mud season rolls around and the roads.....

E. Some people are down by the pond playing loud music at six at night. Well, call us back at ten if it's still going on and we'll go down and talk to them. But just because you move off to the country the world doesn't stop revolving around the sun. There's going to be noise and things you don't agree with but don't move in and expect to change the system. The system works for us.

M. You have to interact with police from other towns and the state. I'm guessing that the perception that they have of Wendell is that its a wild and woolly place. Do you still hear from your colleagues.....

E. Infrequently. But I hear it more from people who live in town. They have the perception that the people that don't live in town have this stereotype view of people from Wendell; you must live in a teepee, be on drugs, don't work, are screwing the system somehow. But that perception is from Wendellites thinking that that this is what the people from outside of Wendell think like. But I'm not finding that (to be true).

M. How do you like the composition of the department?

E. I think we have a good department. We have five officers. Everybody is part time. They put in the time they can. Everyone has their own style. Some people may think that so and so is a bit little brusque that they would rather have someone different deal with them but that's not always possible. Deal with whomever is available at the time. Some people have personality conflicts with some officers, but I don't think there's anybody with an attitude on this department. There might have been a couple in the beginning. I think when anybody starts in a police line of business, they may have a bit of a chip on their shoulder. I think that's probably a result of inexperience. I think the more experience they get with interacting with people the better they do the job and the mellower the seem to get.

M. Do you consciously try to set a tone within the department and try to have some control over the peace keeper/law enforcer paradox?

E. Absolutely. We're accountable to the Selectboard and for the most part they are very accommodating and supportive of us. But when we're wrong, we're wrong.

M. When new officers come on board, what's the nature of your speech to them?

E. I don't think I would call it a speech per se. The underlying premise that we want people to operate under is that these people are your neighbors, they're not bad people, we want to give them every opportunity to comply with the law, get along with their neighbors, get along with us, be helpful and courteous and don't have an attitude. Because when somebody has an attitude the Selectboard hears about it and I hear about it then I go back to this person and.... We have had accusations about this person gave me a ticket and he or she wasn't friendly etc. It's your perception at the time and we're not out there to be verbally abused either. So I stress that you're courteous and business like and do the job. Be compassionate where you can. Work within the town and the system and (instill) the perception that we're here to help you.

M. Do you think its going to come the time that we're going to need a full time police officer.

E. I think so and I don't think its going to be too far in the future. With the paperwork, its getting to be a lot more that it ever was. Then we get to the situation where you have one full time officer and they're spending most of their time doing the office and paperwork, who's out there doing the police work? I don't know how far it is in the future but I think at some point....

M. If you could make one change in the way the town operates around the police department or police issues what would they be?

E. I don't know I don't have any.

M. Do you have the resources that you need?

E. More or less. We're making do. Fortunately we've come up with some grants to buy us some radio equipment and a computer. We don't really have any big budgetary requirements.

M. Do you need more people?

E. Yeh, we do. We have two candidates that we're looking at now but we have to wait for a part time reserve intermittent academy which is a big expense in time for the perspective person. You could probably work for five years in Wendell before you could ever monetarily recoup the amount of time that you've spent going to these 120 hours of classes down in Agawam.

M. Who pays for that?

E. The Department. The state pays for the academy. The town has to pay for the books and registration fee. It costs us about $110.

M. So, a couple hundred dollars for two new officers and they have to find the personal time....

E. Well, you'd like to be able to pay them for doing it, but 120 hours at $7.55..... plus travel? There are enough people willing to do it badly enough that they want to invest their personal time and money, well that's good.

M. Is that something that you take personal pride in? That there are enough people that want to work with you on the Wendell Police Dept.

E. Yeah. You know I get resumes monthly from people all over the place that want a job in Wendell. Many probably just a mass (resume) mailing or as a stepping stone to bigger police things. If they're dedicated enough to want to spend their time and their money then we have a minimal investment to get our money's worth out of it. It's tough to get somebody that wants to get disturbed at a birthday party, Sunday dinner, Christmas dinner or Thanksgiving dinner. And I know, and it hasn't failed me yet, that anytime we have a birthday dinner here, I've got to get up and go in the middle of it. It hasn't failed yet!

M. Would you consider hiring someone that wasn't a resident at this time.

E. We have an applicant that lives across the bridge in The Depot and is looking to move into town but we're an emergency response team and if you lived out of town, by the time you get here the emergency would be dealt with.

M. Are you sure that there isn't anything else you need the people to know that you need?

E. We've tried the last two years to get a four wheel drive vehicle and hopefully this year we'll realize it. It's awful frustrating in January or February in the middle of a blizzard, someone's having an emergency and you can't get there. Or I can get there in my Jeep but then I can't talk to anybody.

M. Is that the same Jeep you've owned since..?

E. For twenty years. I know it will always get me there and always get me back. I carry a first aid kit and this and that but if you need an ambulance or some back up and you get there in the middle of a snow storm and don't have communication, you have a bit of a problem.

Our 1997 Citizen of the Year, Police Chief, Edward Chase. Thanks, Ed.

by Myron Becker

WENDELL POLICE LOG

08/24/97	POSSIBLE ATTIC FIRE. MORSE VILLAGE RD.
08/24/97	STOLEN ARTICLES RECOVERED. FARLEY RD
08/25/97	POSSIBLE RABID RACCOON WEST RD.
08/26/97	HARASSMENT. WICKETT POND RD.
08/30/97	ACCIDENT. NEW SALEM AND MORSE ROADS.
08/30/97	TWO MISSING DOGS.
09/11/97	9 YEAR OLD, DIFFICULTY BREATHING. JENNISON RD.
09/17/97	ALARM AT COUNTRY STORE.
09/19/97	MISSING PERSON. LAKE GROVE SCHOOL. MISSING PERSON RETURNED. BICYCLE RECOVERED. MAPLE VALLEY. BICYCLE STOLEN. LOCKES VILLAGE RD.
09/22/97	ASSIST OTHER AGENCY.
09/23/97	CHECK WELFARE. CENTER RD. CHECK WELFARE. MORMON HOLLOW RD.
09/24/97	HARASSING PHONE CALLS. MORMON HOLLOW RD. ALARM. JENNISON RD.
09/26/97	ASSAULT. WENDELL COUNTRY STORE.
09/27/97	OFFICER WANTED. LOCKES VILLAGE RD.
09/28/97	MISSING PERSON. LAKE GROVE SCHOOL. MISSING PERSON RETURNED.
10/01/97	SUSPICIOUS PERSON. LOCKES VILLAGE RD.
10/02/97	THREAT TO A PERSON. WENDELL COUNTRY STORE.
10/03/97	CHECK WELFARE. LOCKES VILLAGE RD.
10/04/97	POSSIBLE SUICIDAL PERSON MONTAGUE RD.
10/06/97	PERSON FALLING MAIN RD. PERSON IS UP AND ALRIGHT.
10/07/97	VANDALISM TO MAILBOXES. MONTAGUE RD. ACCIDENT. ELM ST.
10/08/97	VANDALISM TO MAILBOX. MONTAGUE RD.

These are the calls that came in through Shelburne Control. Each officer may receive calls that may not be listed here.

Officer A. Diemand

SELF DEFENSE CLASSES

Once again the Wendell / New Salem Community Policing Committee has received a grant. Part of this grant will be used to hold another self defense class for women and girls. The classes will be held at Swift River School on Thursday evenings. It is an eight week class put on by BOLD WOMEN SELF DEFENSE. There will be scholarships available to cover part or all of the class fee.

Some of the comments heard last class at graduation were "very empowering", "I feel like I have options now when I start to feel scared." " It's still important for women to be careful and aware but this class has given me the confidence to know how to defend myself."

For more information or to sign up call Rhonda Rieser at 1-413-774-5796 or Anne Diemand at 544-6111 (home) or 1-413-625-8200 (Shelburne Control).

Anne Diemand

Computer Classes Available

The Millers River CDC in Athol has openings available in their 8-week 32-hour Computer Skills training course. The classes cover basic computer concepts, Windows, word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and the Internet. The cost of the course is normally $197, but the CDC has recently received a grant to fund a limited number of slots for income-eligible residents in the Millers River region. If you are a resident of Orange, Athol, Wendell, Warwick, Erving New Salem, Petersham, Phillipston, or Royalston, and fall within the income guidelines, the course is free. Call Judy at the Millers River CDC for details. 249-9295 ext. 109.

I FOUGHT THE LAW - AND THE LAW WON

The morning of September 6th was clear and sunny with a light southeast wind; at 10 AM the towns of Wendell and New Salem joined forces in the field behind the New Salem Academy and met the Athol Barracks of the State Police in a game of softball. Coffee and doughnuts were served by the New Salem Restaurant and, during the game, the friendly aroma of hot dogs wafted over the crowd of about 50. There were hamburgers and cold drinks as well.

The idea for the game grew from the Community Policing Committee, and it happened after a telephone call the State Police made to Annie Diemand. She put up notices, took calls, and the team met for three practices in the week before the game, with the turnout growing each practice until the day of the game when, in spite of injuries we had enough players to field two full teams.

The State Police took advantage of our injuries and took an early lead, scoring 2 runs in each of the first two innings, 3 in the third, 6 in the fourth, 1 each in the fifth and sixth, and 3 in the seventh. In the eighth and ninth innings, our strategy of tiring them out by making them run around the bases paid off, and we held them scoreless.

Our first run was by Dennis O'Loughlin in the third inning. We scored again in later innings to bring the final score to 18 to 5, more or less. I lost exact count when I was playing.

The towns' starting lineup was as follows:

Ricky Misner	SS
Jonathan von Ranson	P
Ed Chase	1B
Matt Chase	2B
Bill Lafley	OF
Dennis O'Loughlin	3B
Roni Stowell	C
Larry Eston	OF
Michael Joyce	OF
Bob O'Loughlin	OF

The towns' substitutes were:

Justin McGrath	Anne Diemand
Steven Blinder	Josh Chase
Jon Aronstein	Eric Usher
Josh Heinemann	Joe Trischler
Chris Maselli	Jonathan Haber

State Police players were:

Trooper Benoit	Trooper Jankowski
Trooper Fleury	Trooper Des Fosses
Trooper Packard	Trooper Cormier
Trooper Fisher	Trooper Maillet
Trooper Colby	Trooper McGreal
Trooper Routhier	Trooper Poirier
Trooper McCarthy	

I apologize for any spelling errors.

In play the State Police went less formally, by first names, and in Right Field, I knew that when Lenny came to bat (and others) I would be fetching the ball from the woods.

After the game we lined up and shook hands team to team, and we agreed it would be a good idea to make this an annual event. It is good to see a State Trooper as a person, wearing a sweatshirt and no badge.

The town player agreed that a summer of informal games might not only be fun, but might improve our skill level. ¶

by Josh Heinemann

A SPECIAL MAN... RUPERT GODDARD

TRIBUTE TO A TREASURE

The little hilltowns of New England have long been known for their charm, their spectacular natural beauty, their treasures of early architecture which sought basic values that have made many of the early buildings survive hurricanes and the many disasters of a lifestyle that for many decades was never protected by the safeguards of today's world. The lifestyle of the little hill towns still keeps today many of those solid values that enabled them to survive, even from the Revolution and before. And today there are still a few individuals who exemplify those values that have come down thru the years from a period when both towns and individuals depended on themselves, also helping those who needed it and even the towns themselves where a need existed.

One of those self-reliant individuals who has given of himself freely for the town that he loves is Rupert Goddard. For VERY many years he was the police chief in Wendell, usually ALL the police of Wendell, a service he gave because he realized the need. Receiving no pay, he was on call day or night, using his own car, often on long night hours tho his own work began early in the morning. He cleared the town of a group that was terrorizing it, he and his dog alone meeting them in the State Forest. He and his dog took one felon to the Orange jail since Wendell had no jail. He took emergency cases to the hospital. On one occasion he stayed thru the night protecting a downed plane in the Wendell Forest. Tho he lost his own little boy to leukemia he has great love and understanding for the children of others.

His love and understanding of animals was widely known from the time when the horse he rode in Boston Gardens bowed to the audience to their delight, to the years in Wendell of rescuing strays. For many years he was the dog officer and found homes for many unfortunate dogs--if there was NO home for them he did not deprive them of their right to live but kept them himself, earning their keep by his own efforts and giving them love and care. This might be called a cameo sketch of what Bert Goddard has done for Wendell. There is so much more.

Not only does Wendell have its natural treasures, the beauty of Wendell's hills, valleys, ponds and forests but also, in Bert, a treasure of the human values, understanding and willingness to give where there is need, willingness to give of self for the common good.

Elsie Diemand

(Personal letter 10/30/97)

Dear Swift River School Community,

A teacher resigned unexpectedly in August leaving some unresolved concerns. This was very unsettling to many people, especially to the parents and their children who had been expecting him in their classroom. The disturbance seems to be upsetting a delicate balance in our small school community.

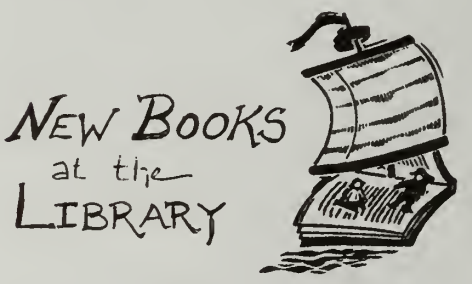
The teacher has filed a formal complaint against our school. The school and the school committee have a commitment to uphold confidentiality and so cannot engage in open dialogue. This causes an imbalance of information. For the most part, it has been outsiders to the story who have chosen to comment. Consequently, even minor misunderstandings have escalated and resulted in an unproductive level of discussion, which is affecting our children and our sense of community.

I believe that discontentment can keep progress alive, and conflict can be productive. But recently I see misplaced frustrations causing biased reporting and false assumptions. Rumors are interfering with our ability to see clearly and communicate with each other.

Those who become acquainted with what is happening inside the school this year will be reassured by the positive and optimistic spirit there. Our teachers and our principal are working together effectively and enthusiastically as they strive to meet and challenge all of the needs of all our children. Their teamwork and ambition have been productive. The effects of their joint efforts are evident this year not just in test scores, but on our children's faces as well. Our support is important to these hardworking people.

We all share a strong interest in our children's education. Their lives are developing here and now. A former teacher's past grievances should not be allowed to keep us from moving forward.

Sincerely,
Molly Kaynor



Part of running the library is the endless, but rather enjoyable, task of keeping our collections up to date. Now that so many long standing maintenance problems have been addressed on the building and grounds my hope is that we can be even more focused on the reason we are here in the first place. That is to provide quality, up-to-date information on a wide variety of topics that affect our lives or are of general public interest either for learning or for entertainment purposes.

This month the focus has been on renewing our adult craft section. Our purchases have been supplemented by several donations initiated by the Golden Age Club in memory of Betty Thompson who passed away this Spring.

The following is a list of the new craft titles.

1. PAPER MACHE TODAY
2. THE COMPLETE SOAP MAKER
3. BEAUTIFUL ORIGAMI
4. PAINTED FURNITURE
5. STENCILING TECHNIQUES
6. THE RUG HOOK BOOK
7. CRAFT OF NATURAL DYEING
8. PAPERCRAFT SCHOOL
9. ORIGAMI ANIMALS
10. GIFTS KIDS CAN MAKE
11. POTTERS PRIMER
12. NEW IDEAS WITH DOUGH
13. THE BASKET BOOK

Rosie Heidkamp

WENDELL'S ORIGINAL

FULL MOON COFFEEHOUSE

NOVEMBER 15
GREEN CROWN
to benefit
Greenfield Area Land Trust

DECEMBER 13
QUETZAL
to benefit
Wendell Full Moon
Coffeehouse

JANUARY 17
Cindy Kallett
to benefit
Wendell Public Library

- Open Mike at 7:30
- Dessert-O-Rama
- Always a Benefit!
- Sliding Scale Admission

At the Town Hall
Wendell, Massachusetts

Feldenkrais Classes:

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Classes in The Feldenkrais Method@ are offered every Monday from 5:00 to 6:15PM at the WENDELL SENIOR CENTER. Lying on the floor moving slowly and gently, participants learn to transform stress to comfort, relieve pain, release holding patterns developed as a result of trauma, regain youthful grace and ease, improve performance by understanding habitual movement patterns more thoroughly (especially artists, athletes and actors), and increase a sense of inner support. People of all ages and abilities are welcome and may join any time by calling Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner Anne Perkins. To register or ask questions, call 544-6385.

WENDELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Wendell Community Council continues its work and invites all Wendellites to join and bring your concerns.

The schedule of meetings through June '98 are as follows:

Monday, Dec. 1	Monday, Apr. 6
Sunday, Jan. 4	Sunday, May 3
Monday, Feb. 2	Monday, June 1
Sunday, March 1	

Meetings are held from 7-9:00PM at the Senior Center. Hope to see you there!

KRIPALU YOGA IN WENDELL

The Wendell Recreation Committee is pleased to announce a series of Kripalu yoga classes to begin early in January, 1998. Pru Smith, a certified Kripalu yoga teacher will begin teaching classes in the Wendell town hall, on Wednesdays, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. These classes are suitable for beginner and continuing adult and young adult yoga students. Kripalu yoga is well known for its gentle flowing style and emphasis on providing a safe, supportive environment for personal growth.
"Kripalu yoga is less about standing on your head than about standing on your own two feet". Pru has been teaching yoga in Wendell, Amherst and Greenfield and looks forward to supporting the Wendell recreation committee and the greater Wendell community by providing affordable classes in the generous space of the newly renovated town hall. Donations of $1-$3 per class are requested to help support the recreation committee and help pay for heating of the town hall. For more information please contact Pru at 544-6347.

Ellis at the Mall

Bob Ellis, local artist, will show a collection of his watercolors and drawings at THE MALL AT MOORE'S CORNER, in the building which was the first home of the Village Co-op. Opening for the show will be Saturday afternoon, November 29 , and the exhibit will hang through December 18. The Gallery will be open Thursdays through Saturdays, 2pm to 6pm.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

DEC. 9
7:00 p
Senior Center

Your new option for health care... now open!

West River Health Center

450 West River St., Orange, Mass.
(Exit 14 off Route 2)

- Fadi Baladi, MD, internal medicine - 544-1505
- Michael Azzoni, MD, orthopedics / sports medicine - 544-1512
- Orthopedic Physical Therapy - 544-1510
- Visting Specialists - 249-3511 Ext. 292 for appointments
  - Howard Tice, MD, gastroenterology
  - Richard Genovese, DPM, podiatry
  - Harold Goldman, MD, neurology
- X-ray - 544-1500
- Laboratory Services - 544-1500
- Community Health Service, a department of Athol Memorial Hospital, the community's home health agency, offering skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social service.- 249-5366
- Health and wellness education programs (watch for announcements)

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Wendell Resource Directory

Anne Perkins
Feldenkrais Practitioner
Phone: 544-6385

Bear Mountain Traders
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Phone: 544-7198
Email/web: wsears@tiac.net
http://www tiac.net
/users/wsears/bearmountaintraders html

Bob Ellis - Watercolors
Fine Art, Cards & Reproductions
Phone: 413-659-3512
Contact: evenings before 10

C & G Bookkeeping
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Fax: 544-7735

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Foolishe Pleasures
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Phone: 544-0044

Jonathan vonRanson
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Phone: 544-3758
Contact: daytimes or evenings

Karen Traub
Integrative Acupressure
Phone: 544-7643

Nancy Riebschlaeger
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Phone: 544-2741
Fax: 544-7207
Email/web: nancyr@shaysnet.com

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Your Name:

What you have to offer:

Phone, fax, email, web.

Yes, put me on the business group mailing list

Address

Flyovers Restricted.. Once

The state police may or may not have been in the olive drab helicopter that flew unusually low over Wendell and New Salem almost all afternoon September 3. Whoever it was, they weren't following the policies worked out by Citizens Against Wrongful Searches (CAWS) and the state police between September 1985 and January 1988.

While some people reportedly felt fine about the helicopter's flight path, others who were visited at extremely low altitude were angry--offended or shocked. If it was the fall marijuana search by officialdom, it seems it was carried out with new insensitivity--new since 1985 anyway. Both the Wendell-New Salem Community Policing Committee and the Wendell Community Council are contacting state officials to tell them what was wrong.

* * *

Memorandum dated January 5, 1988 from Public Safety Commissioner William McCabe to Lieutenant Donald C. Cody, Mass. state Police Air Wing:

Re: Surveillance Flights

This memorandum is written to reaffirm the existing policy and practice regarding State Police Air Wing flights undertaken for surveillance purposes.

1. Such flights shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations, particularly with respect to F.A.A. regulations regarding minimum safe altitude which appear at 14 CFR, Ch. 1, Sec. 91.79 (copy attached hereto), as may be amended from time to time.

2. Such flights will be undertaken only with the prior approval of the appropriate District Attorney's Office or the Attorney General's Office.

3. Such flights may be conducted at an altitude of less than 500 feet only if there exists probable cause with respect to a particular individual or particular property.

4. Except for paragraph one contained herein, this memorandum shall not apply to State Police Air Wing flights undertaken for purposes other than surveillance, including but not limited purposes such as rescue missions and tracking and apprehension of fugitives and other wanted persons.

William McCabe
Commissioner of Public Safety

JvR

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OPEN HOUSE A ROUSING SUCCESS!

Classrooms were charged with lively conversation between grandparents, parents and children about curriculum at our Open House last evening. *In* many classrooms the adults were given tasks to complete that are samples of the kind of teaching and learning that takes place here. Families also had the opportunity to see the work their children are doing this year and to meet the teachers. The turnout of families and their children was remarkable.

Parent/Teacher conferences are coming right up and we hope to have the same turnout! If you didn't have an opportunity to sign-up for a conference time Wednesday evening, watch for a notice from your child's teacher about available times.

Many families also decided to "Adopt-a-Book" in the library. If you didn't have an opportunity to do this, there are still some books available. Contact Geri Manning for details.

SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL P.T.C.A

offered by Gretchen Smith, P.T.C.A. member

The most important message for both new and old parents for the 1997-1998 school year is **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. The P.T.C.A. is growing. New members with new ideas generated some real excitement at our first meeting in September. We would like to see you at our next meeting on Wednesday evening, **October 22nd**. You will make a difference just by being there!

Hot items on the agenda for October 22nd include a review of all fund raising activities,.a proposal to combine forces with the Early Childhood Advisory Council, improving school spirit with some P.T.C.A. sponsored "fun" and involving elderly volunteers in the office and classroom.

Remember, our ideas and plans depend, for the most part, on how much interest and help we can expect to get from volunteers. You don't need to hang in for the whole year. If there's one project you'd like to work, one event you'd like to see revived (e.g., the Fall Festival), one school policy you'd like to debate, the P.T.C.A. is the place to start!

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY BRINGS ~ *CANADA* ~ TO OUR SCHOOL THIS WINTER!

Have you been there?
Do you have photographs, souvenirs or artifacts to share?
Do you know someone who lives there?
Do you know French?
Do you know any Canadian fiddle tunes or dances?
Are you familiar with the history or politics of Canada?
We also need recipes from Canada?

We will need contributions to the bulletin boards and display cabinets in January so please start collecting your Canadian related things, thoughts and ideas for how to help make your school-wide study of Canada to be as informative and alive as it can be. Please call Erin William, 544-2643, or Molly Kaynor, 544-7864, if you have ideas or would like to help with this six week long project in any way. Thank you!

Store & More....

I didn't need Patti's telling to know it was a good summer for Wendell Country Store. Busy with community members pledging support by shopping, bustling with summer people emptying the coolers (especially during the mid-summer concert at Ruggles Pond), folks have been drawn not just by beer and soft drinks, but by the fresh local produce and baked goods, the personable cashiers, and the hopping gourmet brunches.

The store hosted local culinary talent to create brunches that sated Sunday morning appetites among good company. As we ease into fall, the brunches are more sporadic. Patti says to call first to see if a cook is on line.

Under Patti and Vic's active leadership with the Wendell Community Council, the store helped several Wendell families in crisis. Volunteerism reached new heights, and the time and money generously donated reached targets with near-zero "administrative expenses," unlike some other charity organizations in the news.

And talking of volunteers, what other town has seen perhaps 25 people step forward to help a tiny, local store caught in the tiny-local-store squeeze...? The community is obviously saying, "This store is important in our lives. We won't let it die." Volunteers have picked up small maintenance tasks as well as straightening, tidying, painting, running specialty food pickups and other details that were breaking the owners' backs. Patty and Vic want to thank Annmarie Meltzer, Bob Ellis, Al Robichaud, Chris Marano, Laura Maples, Mez Ziemba, Clearwater, Karen Fogliati, and especially Jonathan von Ranson who has been coordinating maintenance needs. And kudos to Josh Dostis for coming up with a masterful concept for the beautification of W.C.S.

So, what's at hand? This fall sees homemade soups every day, organic milk for sale, and more healthy canned goods like Cascadian Farms 100% fruit jams. Come check out the shelves. And the store continues to handle people's monthly bulk orders from Northeast Coops, and twice monthly for animal feed. And for all of us who need a little cash or prefer to use credit cards for shopping, mid-October will see a credit/debit card machine that will process food stamps, ATM cards and other credit arrangements.

Products have gradually been being moved out of the side (video) room to discourage shoplifting, an ongoing headache for Patti and Vic and an embarrassment for all of us. Certain plainclothes volunteers are keeping a watchful presence to help combat this problem.

A welcome to Alicia Derry and Graeme O'Dou, new faces behind the counter, and also Maria Bucaglia as of a few months ago. And best wishes to Becky Snyder, Susan Drillon's daughter, who graced the store all summer and has returned to Bowdoin College in Maine.

See you at the store!

Susan von Ranson

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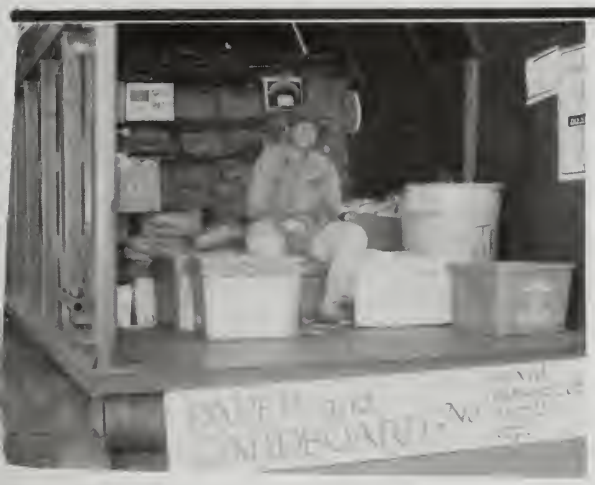

KayMarion at W.R.A.T.S. working in new paper recycing bin which saves $$ on transportation.

Writers' Workshop

For the past two years I drove once a week to Shelburne to a writers' workshop. It's one of the best things I ever did for myself. I made the acquaintance of others with my condition (a powerful desire to write). I got the help I most needed with my work, which was attention to it and appreciation for it. And I could never have predicted the pleasure and amazement, week after week, of hearing my workshop fellows read what they'd written.

I am not a classroom kind of guy. Moreover, commitment to this workshop meant juggling work in summertime, breaking rhythm and giving up pay, and in wintertime getting up early and hiking or skiing a half-hour to a snowed-in car and aiming it along bobsled-track roads for 45 minutes to the class. Though I responded to the format from the outset, it would have been classic for me to drop out after a session. Staying with it meant believing I own the time and money of pursuing what I love to do.

In the group I frequently wrote what seemed like scary stuff. I'd have to decide whether to read my embarrassing (and, the Critic insisted, dumb) but cleansing revelations to the others, or pass.

I nearly always decided to read what I'd written. Eventually, the Critics inside began to calm down a bit. The reactions of my mates--who lauded my courage and sensed something worthwhile for me in what I'd written--exerted an educating effect on them. They're not PhDs yet, just more humble.

Classes began with a few thoughts about writing and moved to a short warm-up exercise. Each then read aloud what she'd written (this was not commented on). Gene would next suggest a topic for a longer (40 min. or so) period of unconstrained writing. The pen was encouraged to never stop moving--to further disarm the Inner Critics and perhaps even tap into the "river of words" in the elusive kingdom where things almost write themselves. Then, the feast: the reading of these pieces. Here the others were invited to comment positively. The ritual of positive coment was joined by the ritual of the presenting writer just listening. Shortly we'd take a ritual break, at a table of fruit, cookies and tea.

There is more I haven't mentioned. Manuscripts created out of class, for example, were distributed. In a later class they received a thorough response--positive and negative--by the other writers. Writers could choose to submit manuscripts to Gene only for comment. We offered out-of-class services for each other. Literary friendships were born. Writers were too.

I loved my teacher. Still do, of course. I think we all love Gene Zeiger. She's a few years younger than I, but she is mother to my resolve to be a writer. She also encouraged me to lead others in writing. Her leadership and participation in her class are as organic as bone marrow--no put-on technique; you get her kind and ready heart, her great perceptivity, and the basic approach of Amherst Writers and Artists and its founder Pat Schneider.

As Genie practices it, this system isn't obtrusive; at the beginning of each class, she throws it around her shoulders like a worn cape, and you forget she's in it. Essentially, it presumes a writer--being a product of Western culture--has heard enough criticism, and needs to be released from the jaws of self criticism into the arms of faith in him or herself. That means saying and hearing What I Liked About What You Wrote. It means finding repeated opportunities to give and get these positive but honest reactions--many times per class. You'd think the comments might sometimes feel forced. In fact, the discipline of the positive, combined with the group spirit that developed, made a shift in listening that turned the old familiar world of cool judgementalism upside down. It became natural to notice the beauty in the person, the effort and the work. It struck me that this might be how the world is meant to work.

Many of us are profoundly shy; self-doubt infects us. We nevertheless/ therefore gravitate to the sun of artistic expression: visual art, writing, dancing, music... The works we offer, like Piglet's broken balloon, seem made for a safer world than the actual one they arrive naked into, the world of tempo, swagger and blare, of dismissal and envy. Correct--nobody's going to change the cruel world overnight. Nor is an island of safety going to protect forever; the real world is the world we live in. In fact it's our job to live, work and risk there.

The funny thing is that the real world seems much less scary when we've found the courage to visit, as I did for two years, the other, perhaps realer world of sacred attention to the artist in us.

Jonathan von Ranson

I will be offering writers' workshops--a morning and an evening one--starting the second week in November. Call for details, 544-3758. JvR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Wendell Community Council will be Monday, December 1 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. Topics will include assistance to members of the community in need, aerial surveillance, police-community relations, and plans for teen video dances.

Bridge Work

Until a problem deep in the earth brought things to a halt, Wendell could look forward to a new two-lane concrete bridge with a pedestrian walkway over the Millers River at Wendell Depot sometime next summer. But work on the bridge, which started in early June, was stopped in October. The site engineer, John Hillman of Leverett, says the state and contractor disagree about matters of soil support as well as the quality of a welded part, and work is through for the season.

The old bridge was completely removed by early September. Now there are just slopes where the abutments used to be, with pilings driven in and an access road.

Once it's built, the concrete railings of the new bridge will be open-style, with narrow, vertical "cut-outs"--a fussier, and more expensive design in keeping with the beauty of the river view. Structurally, the bridge will be of steel, supporting a concrete deck with asphalt on top. The walkway will be handicap-accessible.

The structure will be equipped with instrumentation to record minute movements of its components. This is not because of any special concerns about this bridge. The state highway department will use the readings to study the behavior of "integral abutment" bridges. Instruments to be installed include an inclinometer, joint meter, tilt meter, and air temperature gauge.

Workers encountered the remains of the old Depot dam. It once created a pond and generated electricity for the Depot area until the hurricane of 1938 swept it away.

The holdup is connected to a surprise about bedrock: in a test, engineers drilled a hole 45 ft. deep, 47 in. in diameter, filled it with concrete and subjected it to loading, thinking the test would confirm preliminary judgements. It didn't. Probes have gone 65 ft. below the river and found no bedrock...uncharacteristic of this thin-soiled town.

Wendell's two other spans over the Millers, the Arch St. and Farley crossings, have been renovated or rebuilt in the past ten years. The Depot bridge project was expected to cost approximately $1.5 million, including demolition, removal and construction.

The Elm Street detour will remain in place until the new bridge is finished.

Jonathan von Ranson

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... continued from pg 1

Bob's Canada Trip

village, roaring past our lodge, bearing off green wealth, enormous white-wrapped pack-ages of lumber, more "fiber" to feed the ravenous global economy whose U.S. mouth is the biggest. What do the trucks take back north? Are they run-ning *empty* going upcountry? No one here tells me.

*****

Wilderness: any place where there is a creature out there bigger than you, which can kill you. No grizzlies here though, only some black bears; but *wilderness* none the less. A wolf, seen by arriving artist Bob Smith, was trotting south on the highway, totally ignoring three passing semis, six kilometers north of here.

*****

Dawn the first day: I take coffee out into the mild gray morning; vapor rises off the water. Without warning a loon pops up maybe 50 feet beyond the dock. I'm always surprised by the size of loon's sleek black-and-white body: bigger than a goose. The bird eyes me sitting motionless on my heels, then dives again with hardly a ripple on the black water. Then I see another, out beyond; it dives, comes up with a fish and I see a brownish juvenile steaming toward its parent. The youngster lays its head nearly on the surface as they come together. It takes the minnow hungrily, bolts it down; the adult dives again. The youngster puts its face into the water, perhaps following the pursuit in the clearest water I've seen in years, then hurries for the next fish when the parent pops up. The day brightens; feeding goes on energetically right there in the marina, next to the dock where two bush planes sit motionless on floats. A man emerges from the office/hangar and begins methodically preparing the Beaver for the crazy artists he will fly into the bush. But not me - it's not my turn today. The loons, still feeding, drift out to deeper water, away from the stirrings of humans.

*****

Rain, scudding clouds, the ceiling too low for flying - no air trips to the bush this day. I have more coffee, frustrated, but not for long - I head down the main road, my body buffeted by bow waves of semis, cross the railroad and enter the White Bear Forest, noting masses of prickly-furry Viper's Bug-loss, the tiny flowers an incredible blue surely borrowed from the gray-washed sky. There is old growth pine farther down this trail, and a lake, but I slow down, wander in a patch of replanted jack pines. After noon, weak sunshine washes the woods. I nibble lingering raspberries. A small motion beneath waist-high bracken catches my eye. *A bird,* I think, *maybe a woodcock,* but I can't make it out. It jumps away noiselessly to another clump of ferns. I must see what it is; my foot scrapes gravel, and a Pine Marten, glowing rich orange, leaps onto a fallen snag in full sunlight. It bounces along the big log, escaping but without terror, and I get my first look at this swift member of the weasel tribe who chases and catches squirrels in the treetops. Formerly resident in Wendell but long gone, this marten, whose Siberian cousin furnishes the hair for my best paint brushes, is a gift given me. I sketch it quickly, fix my luck on paper.

*****

The basso drumming of the motor dies away when the pilot turns off ignition to the steadfast old Beaver. We float lightly into the cove, up to the small sandy beach between big boulders and stop on contact with soft sand. Quickly we unload, hauling backpacks, tripods, easels onto the pon-toon. An easy hop to dry land. We gather our stuff, head into dense evergreenery. Mushrooms erupt everywhere. With a canoe paddle, the pilot pushes the plane off the beach, turns it around, hops in the cabin and restarts the engine. He allows the motor to idle the craft back out to deep water. (Technology in paradise: they told us to bring a watch, for the pilot demands punctuality; he will return at five PM.) Our party scatters, some going up a wet, lushly timbered ridge to a promontory. A spot on shoreline rock draws me. By the time the plane's noise has faded my easel is in place. Eagerly I rummage around for materials, but then I'm aware of a false, mad urgency. I seem somehow *not here;* the hands rummaging in the stuffed pack seem to belong to someone else. Lightheaded, I sit down on the camp stool Parker gave me to bring all this way.

There is not a sound. The broad water before me is perfectly still. Behind, stalwart red pines soar, their bark like crusty bronze armor. The shoreline opposite is misted in gray-blue, with distant clouds gathering again. Nearer, a rocky point spired with pine and fir defines the hundred-yard cove, the Obabika River beyond it. I become rooted, envel-oped in silence so absolute there is a flash of panic that I've gone insane. I flounder, trying to under-stand. I make myself breathe.

I am completely cut off, *out of touch,* as totally as if I left my whole life on the dock in Temagami. There is only breathless, overpowering silence, as of an *armistice.* Five years ago the heart-stopping hammerblow of a nearby lightning bolt damaged already age-wasted hearing, and my world has seemed to gradually become noisier, sometimes forcing me away from otherwise pleasurable environs. I don't pretend to understand its physi-ology or its psychology, but this total surcease from noise, all noise, all *sound,* I could not have imagined a few minutes ago. I am filled with astonishment, with bottomless gratitude; the moist warmth on my cheeks hardly startles me. A quirky memory of legless Brian Willson, assaulted and mutilated by the U.S Navy, arises, Brian talking about how our shoes alienate us, keep us from essential contact with our substrate, with our forgotten animal selves. My Bean boots and socks come off. A simian, in deep peace now, I stand and grip the cool, grainy rock, feel its preCambrian essence... For an hour and a half I squat on this old glacier-ground outcrop dipping into a body of water pure enough to drink... And I drink it all in, not knowing, not caring whether this rock is indeed preCambrian or something else in this primeval landscape of tumultuous geologic history. All knowledge wafts away, and after awhile I am fully open, a sponge soaking up the flow, absorbed in something so farfetched and singular in its mystery it can't be just *in my head...* Unseen, a loon calls once. It all becomes real. I pick out a brush.

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Perfect solitude, but of course I'm not alone. The two flights brought ten of us here this morning. Lawrence Nickle calls out from the end of the point, something about otters. I run down there. He points, gives me his binocular: three River Otters, moving away from us toward the other wing of the cove. They dive, loll on their backs, eat fish, swim on, dive again, undulating, leisurely, playful. They seem headed toward the Obabika River. *Probably a female and her cubs; one is clearly smaller.* I watch them out of sight. There's a southerly breeze in my face now, with small waves beginning to announce themselves on the rocks. Clouds are

noticeably darker as I go back to my painting. Feeling the imminence of rain, I work to get the small watercolor to a point I can leave it for easy resumption. Wet drops, small and widely spaced, begin to fall. The southern horizon fades away in pearly gray. At the last moment I snatch up the easel and carry it under the large blue tarp strung between pines as the rain comes on full, along with the sound of an outboard motor.

Alex Mathias, from one of the fourteen families of First People in this 4000-square mile area, comes across the lake in his open boat, running before the light wind and rain. He lives here and is curious what we're up to. We tell him of our mission; soon there's a sense of welcome in the air, each of the other. A man of medium height, square-built, with dark eyes and coppery skin, Alex tells us some things about the struggle to save this pine forest: *It has everything we need. We need it to live - it has food, medicine, everything we need, eh?* Alex worked in construction farther south for years, and at 49 has returned to the land of his people, with his partner and their two daughters. He built a house on the wilder side of Obabika, has a garden. He shot a moose in March which fed them for six months. He talks about protest, about the media, the dem-onstrators photographed, arrested and hauled away so the logging trucks could go through. Then he tells of the river bridge, built for the logging, whose planks were chainsawed at night by "locals": *So no logging trucks, eh? Which method worked?* he wants to know. I think to myself, *Both worked; together they both worked.* But I don't take up his gambit, not wanting to get too political on first acquaintance, though political I am to the bone about destruction of wilderness by greed. He says the steel beams of the bridge were taken up and hauled away later, by government.

Commotion from the forest behind us, then others of our party emerge from the old, dark, wet woods: tall, acid-witty John Anderson, mountaineer Tim Yearington with his huge backpack, Clive Powsey who had a swim first thing this morning. Lawrence continues to paint down on the point, dry under his own tarp. Alex, who brought his axe, splits dry pine and makes fire in the stone hearth - this is a 'permanent' campsite. Around the fire, ignoring the rain which comes and goes, the talk is of the mountain fastness they climbed, the tiny lake below the precipice, a power place sacred to native people. Alex tells us about his special camp beside that lake where he retreats from time to time for his soul (my word, not his.) I almost regret not going up the ridge with them this morning. Under the eery blue glow of the rain-beaten tarp, we open brown bag lunches. Suddenly chilly, I put on wool, discover I'm famished, bite into a sandwich: *roast caribou!*

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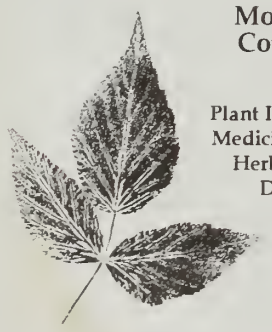

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